

Amendment to the Claims

Kindly cancel claims 12-15, 27-30, 32, and 44-47, without prejudice, amend claim 23, and add new claims 48-51, as set forth below. In compliance with the Revised Amendment Format published in the Official Gazette on February 25, 2003, a complete listing of claims is provided herein. The changes in the amended claims are shown by strikethrough (for deleted matter) and underlining (for added matter).

1. (Original) A method of routing instant messages, said method comprising:

defining, at runtime by a pluggable delivery manager, a delivery policy to be used to route an instant message to an intended recipient of the instant message, wherein the delivery policy is based upon a configuration of the pluggable delivery manager, a user configuration of the intended recipient, and one or more available delivery mechanisms; and

routing said instant message to the intended recipient using said delivery policy.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said defining of the delivery policy comprises:

defining a routing policy based on said user configuration and said one or more available delivery mechanisms, wherein said routing policy includes one or more possible delivery mechanisms; and

selecting from the routing policy at least one delivery mechanism to be included in the delivery policy, said selecting being based upon the configuration of the pluggable delivery manager.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said defining of the delivery policy comprises:

determining, from the user configuration, one or more delivery mechanisms supported by said intended recipient;

determining which of said one or more delivery mechanisms supported by said intended recipient are included in the one or more available delivery mechanisms to yield one or more possible delivery mechanisms; and

determining which of the one or more possible delivery mechanisms are supported by the pluggable delivery manager, as indicated in the configuration of the pluggable delivery manager, a result of which defines the delivery policy.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said routing comprises dispatching the instant message to at least one delivery mechanism of the delivery policy, as indicated by the delivery policy.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said routing comprises dispatching the instant message to at least one delivery mechanism of the delivery policy, as indicated by the delivery policy.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising selecting the pluggable delivery manager from a plurality of delivery managers.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising configuring said pluggable delivery manager.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said configuring comprises selecting a configuration for said pluggable delivery manager from a set of one or more configurations, wherein said selecting uses content of the instant message to make the selection.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said configuring comprises configuring said pluggable delivery manager at runtime.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the intended recipient is indicated by the instant message.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one available delivery mechanism of said one or more available delivery mechanisms is pluggable.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) A system of routing instant messages, said system comprising:

means for defining, at runtime by a pluggable delivery manager, a delivery policy to be used to route an instant message to an intended recipient of the instant message, wherein the delivery policy is based upon a configuration of the pluggable delivery manager, a user configuration of the intended recipient, and one or more available delivery mechanisms; and

means for routing said instant message to the intended recipient using said delivery policy.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein said means for defining the delivery policy comprises:

means for defining a routing policy based on said user configuration and said one or more available delivery mechanisms, wherein said routing policy includes one or more possible delivery mechanisms; and

means for selecting from the routing policy at least one delivery mechanism to be included in the delivery policy, the selecting being based upon the configuration of the pluggable delivery manager.

18. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein said means for defining the delivery policy comprises:

means for determining, from the user configuration, one or more delivery mechanisms supported by said intended recipient;

means for determining which of said one or more delivery mechanisms supported by said intended recipient are included in the one or more available delivery mechanisms to yield one or more possible delivery mechanisms; and

means for determining which of the one or more possible delivery mechanisms are supported by the pluggable delivery manager, as indicated in the configuration of the pluggable delivery manager, a result of which defines the delivery policy.

19. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein said means for routing comprises means for dispatching the instant message to at least one delivery mechanism of the delivery policy, as indicated by the delivery policy.

20. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein said means for routing comprises means for dispatching the instant message to at least one delivery mechanism of the delivery policy, as indicated by the delivery policy.

21. (Original) The system of claim 16, further comprising means for selecting the pluggable delivery manager from a plurality of delivery managers.

22. (Original) The system of claim 16, further comprising means for configuring said pluggable delivery manager.

23. (Original) The ~~system~~ system of claim 22, wherein said means for configuring comprises means for selecting a configuration for said pluggable delivery manager from a set of one or more configurations, wherein the selecting uses content of the instant message to make the selection.

24. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein said means for configuring comprises means for configuring said pluggable delivery manager at runtime.

25. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the intended recipient is indicated by the instant message.

26. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein at least one available delivery mechanism of said one or more available delivery mechanisms is pluggable.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled)

31. (Original) A system of routing instant messages, said system comprising:

a delivery policy defined, at runtime by a pluggable delivery manager, to be used to route an instant message to an intended recipient of the instant message, wherein the delivery policy is based upon a configuration of the pluggable delivery manager, a user configuration of the intended recipient, and one or more available delivery mechanisms; and

said pluggable delivery manager to route said instant message to the intended recipient using said delivery policy.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Original) At least one program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying at least one program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method of routing instant messages, said method comprising:

defining, at runtime by a pluggable delivery manager, a delivery policy to be used to route an instant message to an intended recipient of the instant message, wherein the delivery policy is based upon a configuration of the pluggable delivery manager, a user configuration of the intended recipient, and one or more available delivery mechanisms; and

routing said instant message to the intended recipient using said delivery policy.

34. (Original) The at least one program storage device of claim 33, wherein said defining of the delivery policy comprises:

defining a routing policy based on said user configuration and said one or more available delivery mechanisms, wherein said routing policy includes one or more possible delivery mechanisms; and

selecting from the routing policy at least one delivery mechanism to be included in the delivery policy, said selecting being based upon the configuration of the pluggable delivery manager.

35. (Original) The at least one program storage device of claim 33, wherein said defining of the delivery policy comprises:

determining, from the user configuration, one or more delivery mechanisms supported by said intended recipient;

determining which of said one or more delivery mechanisms supported by said intended recipient are included in the one or more available delivery mechanisms to yield one or more possible delivery mechanisms; and

determining which of the one or more possible delivery mechanisms are supported by the pluggable delivery manager, as indicated in the configuration of the pluggable delivery manager, a result of which defines the delivery policy.

36. (Original) The at least one program storage device of claim 35, wherein said routing comprises dispatching the instant message to at least one delivery mechanism of the delivery policy, as indicated by the delivery policy.

37. (Original) The at least one program storage device of claim 33, wherein said routing comprises dispatching the instant message to at least one delivery mechanism of the delivery policy, as indicated by the delivery policy.

38. (Original) The at least one program storage device of claim 33, wherein said method further comprises selecting the pluggable delivery manager from a plurality of delivery managers.

39. (Original) The at least one program storage device of claim 33, wherein said method further comprises configuring said pluggable delivery manager.

40. (Original) The at least one program storage device of claim 39, wherein said configuring comprises selecting a configuration for said pluggable delivery manager from a set of one or more configurations, wherein said selecting uses content of the instant message to make the selection.

41. (Original) The at least one program storage device of claim 39, wherein said configuring comprises configuring said pluggable delivery manager at runtime.

42. (Original) The at least one program storage device of claim 33, wherein the intended recipient is indicated by the instant message.

43. (Original) The at least one program storage device of claim 33, wherein at least one available delivery mechanism of said one or more available delivery mechanisms is pluggable.

44. (Canceled)

45. (Canceled)

46. (Canceled)

47. (Canceled)

48. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the pluggable delivery manager is dynamically added at runtime.

49. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the pluggable delivery manager is dynamically added at runtime.

50. (New) The system of claim 31, wherein the pluggable delivery manager is dynamically added at runtime.

51. (New) The at least one program storage device of claim 33, wherein the pluggable delivery manager is dynamically added at runtime.